

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for converting CO on one side of a membrane in the presence of water to CO₂ and H₂O on said one side of said membrane, H₂ passing through said membrane to the other side of said membrane and said hydrogen being combusted on said other side with oxygen fed to said other side, wherein the feed to the one side of the membrane comprises anode off-gas from a fuel cell.

21. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 20, wherein said oxygen ~~comprises~~ is from a cathode off-gas from [[a]] an upstream fuel cell which comprises said oxygen.

22. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 20, wherein ~~said~~ non-combusted oxygen is fed to [[the]] a cathode of a downstream fuel cell.

23. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 20, wherein said oxygen ~~comprises~~ is from air.

24. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 20, wherein water is separated off from the off-gas originating from said one side of said membrane.

25. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 20, wherein the heat from the off-gas from at least one of the sides of said membrane is recovered.

26. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 20, wherein [[the]] an oxygen-containing gas is introduced on said other side of the membrane under elevated pressure.

27. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 20, wherein gas containing water originating from the other side of said membrane is fed to a further step for converting CO on one side of a further membrane in the presence of water to give CO₂ and H₂O on the one side of said further membrane, H₂ passing through said further membrane to the other side of said further membrane.

28. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 27, wherein a separate oxygen-containing stream is fed to the inlet of said one side of said further membrane.

29. (withdrawn) System comprising an SOFC fuel cell and a device for reacting CO and H₂, comprising a hydrogen-permeable membrane (8) bounded on either side by, respectively, a first and a second chamber, wherein said first chamber is provided with feed means for CO and H₂ and with discharge means for CO₂ and H₂O and said second chamber is constructed as a combustion chamber and is provided with oxygen feed means and water discharge means, wherein the anode outlet of said SOFC is connected to said first chamber.

30. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 29, wherein the cathode outlet of said SOFC is connected to said second chamber.

31. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 29, wherein the cathode inlet is connected to said second chamber.

32. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 29, wherein the outlet of said first chamber is provided with water removal means.

33. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 29, wherein the outlet of said second chamber is connected to the expander of a gas turbine.

34. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 33, wherein the gas fed to the second chamber of said membrane is fed through a compressor of said turbine.

35. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 29, wherein the outlet of said turbine is connected to the cathode inlet of a further SOFC.

36. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 35, wherein said further SOFC is connected to a system comprising an SOFC fuel cell and a device for reacting CO and H₂, comprising a hydrogen-permeable membrane (8) bounded on either side by, respectively, a first and a second chamber, wherein said first chamber is provided with feed means for CO and H₂ and with discharge means for CO₂ and H₂O and said second chamber is constructed as a combustion chamber and is provided with oxygen feed means and water discharge means, wherein the anode outlet of said SOFC is connected to said first chamber.

37. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 29, comprising a further device for reacting CO and H₂, comprising a hydrogen-permeable membrane delimited on either side by, respectively, a first and second chamber, wherein said first chamber is provided with feed means for CO and H₂ and is provided with discharge means for CO₂ and H₂O and said second chamber is constructed as a combustion chamber and provided with a feed connected to the discharge from the second chamber of said device for reacting CO and H₂.

38. (withdrawn) System according to Claim 37, wherein said second chamber is provided with separate oxygen feed means.

39. (new) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said cathode off-gas comprises air.